

The Emancipation Of Women from Ancient to Modern India

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During the British Rule, the position of women changed slightly as various laws were passed by the British Government to protect them from the evil customs. Post – Independence the Constitution of India gave them the lost freedom and liberty through various legislations. Whether it is politics or science or medicine or law or literature, there is no field of profession that is untouched by women now a days.



The first Indian woman on postage was Mirabai, issued on **01 Oct 1952** and was for 2 annas. Since then hundreds of Indian women stamps were issued and they commemorated women from history to film actors.

.As Michelle Obama states, "As women, we must stand up for ourselves. As women, we must stand up for each other. As women, we must stand up for justice for all."



01 Oct 1963, Annie Besant was the second President of The Theosophical Society. She was a women's rights activist, a thinker, educationist and orator.

The situation of women is similar to two sides of a coin. On the one hand women are climbing the ladder of success, fulfilling their dreams, but on the other hand, they are humiliated and suffer from violence from their own people. But as compared to past, women have achieved a lot.

15 Dec 1997 'INDEPEX '97', International Stamp Exhibition, New Delhi (5th Issue).



27 Aug 1980 Mother Teresa (Humanitarian) - Noble Peace Prize Winner 1979.



Mother Teresa also known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta moved to India where she founded Missionaries of Charity. It also runs soup kitchens, dispensaries, mobile clinics, children's and family counseling programmes, as well as orphanages and schools.

18 Dec 2005, Mudurai Shanmukhavadi Subbulakshmi.

M.S Subbulakshmi the flawless Carnatic singer, appointed as the Cultural Ambassador of India.



Thillaiyadi Valliammai was a South African Tamil woman who worked with Mahatma Gandhi in his early years.

31 Dec 2008, Thillaiyadi Valliammai (Anti Apartheid Campaigner - South Africa).

Velu Nachiyar was the first Indian ruler to fight and triumph against the British. She was trained in horse-riding, archery, and martial arts.

13 Feb 1964, 85th Anniv. Of Sarojini Naidu Known as the 'Nightingale of India', Sarojini Naidu was a poet, Feminist, politician and a great orator. She was the first woman to become the Governor of a state in India.



Swami Vivekananda states, "It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing "Women empowerment is the process that creates power in women to live a happy and respectable life in a society.

Women are empowered when they are able to access opportunities in a variety of fields such as in education, profession, lifestyle etc.,

Women in the Pre Vedic period enjoyed freedom in various fields like education, decision making, property rights, remarriage and more. The position of women saw a sharp decline in the Post Vedic or Later Vedic Period.

Evil practices such as sati, child marriage, dowry system, the prohibition of widow remarriage, polygamy, became more prevalent. However, with the advent of Mughal Empire girls were confined to home due to fear . Some brave Queens like Rani Durgavathi fought against Mughal emperors.



Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, became the first female prime minister of India & Second longest serving PM of India.

19 Nov 1984- 85, Comm of Indira Gandhi (1st & 2nd Issue).



27 Dec 1987, Rukmini Devi (Exponent of Art & Culture and Educationist) was the revivalist of Bharatanatyam from its original 'sadhira' style prevalent amongst the temple dancers, the [Devadasis](#).

24 Jun 1988, Rani Durgawati

Ruling Queen of Gondwana, Rani Durgawati a brave, valiant & a great leader with administrative skills fought against Mughal emperor, chose to kill herself rather than surrendering before the Mughal army.



31 Dec 2008, Rani Velu Nachiyar (Queen of Sivaganga).

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